THE DURHAM GARLAND, OR, THE GOLDEN CUP.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

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PART. I.

A Worthy Lord of vaſt eſtate,
Who did in Durham dwell of late,
But I will not declare his name,
By reaſon of his birth and fame:
But if you the truth would know,
This Lord he did a hunting go,
He had indeed a noble train,
Of lords and knights and gentlemen.
Unto fam'd Yorkſhire he would ride,
With all his gallants by his ſide,
In hunting paſs'd the time away,
But being weary, as they ſay,
His lordſhip loſt his noble train,
Of lords and knights and gentlemen.
And hearing not the horns to blow,
He could not tell which way to go.
But he did wander to and fro,
Being weary, likewiſe full of woe,
At laſt dame fortune was ſo kind
That he the keeper's houſe did find.
He went and knocked at the gate,
And tho' it was ſo very late,
The foreſter he let him in,
But 'in the middle of the night.
When as the ſtars did ſhine ſo bright,
The lord was ſtricken with ſurpriſe,
Being waked with a diſmal noiſe,
Then did he riſe and call with ſpeed,
To know the reaſon of this indeed,
Of all that ſhrieking and that roiſe,
Which did ſo much his ſoul ſurprize.

That you ſhould be ſo much afraid,
But I hope that all will ſoon be well,
My wife is into labour fell.
This noble lord was learn'd and wiſe,
And knew the planets of the ſkies;
He ſaw an evil planet reign,
So call'd for the foreſter again.
And gave him then to underſtand,
He'd have the midwife hold her hand:
But he was anſwer'd by the maid,
Her miſtreſs was delivered.
At one o'clock that very morn,
A lovely infant there was born.
He was indeed a pretty boy,
Which give his parents mickle joy.
The lord was generous, kind and free,
And prefer'd godfather to be;
The goodman thank'd him heartily,
For his goodwill and courteſy.
A parſon was call'd for with ſpeed,
For to chriſten the child indeed;
And afterwards, as we heard ſay,
In joy and mirth they ſpent the day.
This noble lord did preſents give,
And all his ſervants did receive.
They begg'd God would increaſe his ſtore,
For they had ne'er ſo much before,
And likewiſe to the child he gave,
A noble preſent and a brave,
It was a charming cabinet,
That was with pearls and rubies ſet.
Within it was a cabinet of gold,
Your eyes would dazzle to behold;
A richer gift, as I may ſay,
Has not been ſeen this many a day,
He charg'd his father faithfully,
That he himſelf ſhould keep the key,
Until the child could write and read,
And then to give it him indeed.

'Pray do not open it at all,
Whatever does to you befall.
For it may do my Godson good,
If it be rightly understood.
'The second part I will unfold,
As true as ever tale was told,
Concerning of this lovely child,
Who was obedient, sweet and mild.

PART II.

THIS child did take his learning so.
If you the truth of this would know,
At eleven years of age indeed,
He could both greek and latin read:
But thinking of his cabinet,
Which was with pearls and jewels set,
He ask'd his father for the key,
The which he gave him speedily.
His cabinet he did unlock,
But he was in amazement struck,
When he the riches did behold.
And also saw the change of gold;
But searching farther he did find,
A paper that disturb'd his mind,
Which was within his cabinet,
In greek and latin it was writ.
'My son, serve God that is on high,
And pray to him incessantly;
Obey your parents, serve the king,
That nothing may your conscience sting:
For seven years hence your fate will be,
To be hanged upon a tree.
So pray to God both night and day,
To let that hour pass away.
When he these dreadful lines did read,
He with a sigh did say indeed,
If hanging be my destiny,
My parents shall not see me die;
For I will wander to and fro,
And go where no one does me know.

But firſt I'll aſk my parent's leave,
In view their bleſſing to receive.
Then locking up his cabinet,
He went unto his chamber ſtraight,
And [illegible] unto his parents dear,
Beſeeching them with many a tear,
That they would grant what he did crave,
Your bleſſing firſt I beg to have;
And hope you'll let me go away,
I will do me good another day.

For I indeed have made a vow,
But muſt not tell the reaſon know;
But if I live I will return,
When ſeven years are paſt and gone,
Both man and wife did then reply
We fear, dear ſon that you will die,
If we ſhould yield to let you go,
Our aged hearts will burſt with woe,
Yet he intreated eagerly,
So that they ſoon'd were to comply,

And gave consent that he should go,
But where, alas! they did not know:
In the Third Part we soon shall find,
That Fortune to him was most kind;
And after many dangers past,
He came to Durham at the last.

PART III.

HE went by chance, as I've heard say,
Unto the house, that very day,
Whereat his Godfather did dwell,
Now mind what fortune him befall.
This youth did carve a service there,
And strait came out his Godfather,
And seeing him a handsome youth,
He took him for his page in truth.
In this same place he pleas'd so well,
That above all he bore the bell.
He made him butler indeed
And then chief steward was with speed,
Which made the other servants rail,
And envy him both day and night.
He ne'er was false in his trust,
But proved always true and just,
And to the Lord did hourly pray,
To guard him still both night and day.
In this same place it doth appear
He liv'd the space of seven years,
And of his parents thought upon,
And of his promise to return:
Then humbly of his lord did crave,
For to go and see his parents dear,
Whom he had not seen for many years.
So having leave away he went,
Not dreaming of the base intent,
Which was contriv'd against him then,
By wicked, false, malicious men;
Who had in his portmanteu put,
Their noble lord's fine golden cup;
And when the lord at dinner was,

He miſs'd the cup as it came to paſs,
Where ſhould it be, the lord did ſay,
We had it here but yeſterday;
The butler then reply'd with ſpeed,
If you would know the truth indeed,
Your faithful ſteward that is gone
With feather'd neſt away is flown,
I do believe he has that and more,
Which does belong unto your ſtore.
No, ſaid the lord, that cannot be,
For I have try'd his honeſty;
Then ſaid the cook, my lord, I'll die,
Upon a tree that's nine feet high:
But hearing what this man did ſay,
He ſent a meſſenger that day,
To take him with a hue and cry,
And bring him back immediately.
They ſearch'd his portmanteau indeed,
In which they found the cup with ſpeed,
Then he was ſtruck with ſad ſurpriſe,
And ſcarcely could believe his eyes:
The lord he ſaid unto him ſtrait,
Thou ſhalt be hanged at my gate,
Becauſe in you I put my truſt,
And I took you for nought but juſt.

PART IV.

THE day was fix'd, and being come,
Said he, lord, it is my doom,
Tho' innocent, I do declare,
How my lord's cup came to be there,
What fate decrees none can deny,
I was adjudged thus to die,
Upon a fatal gallows tree,
Which my godfather did foreſee?
In traveling pains my mother was,
Into the world I came at laſt,
A gentleman with ſkill did ſhew,
Such death I am now coming too;

Unto my father, which I have,
The manuscript which was therein,
Did shew me plain I should be hang'd.
So the lord hearing him to say so,
It came into his mind then to,
Keep him from off the gallows tree,
For I think this man is not guilty;
Something I doubt there is in this
Methinks it is with meer malice,
Of the cook and the butler too,
And if so I'll make them rue.
The cause he tries a second time,
And found them guilty of the crime,
They were adjudg'd to be hanged strait,
Indeed they did deserve their fate;
The lord he ask'd him, and did say,
Have you that cabinet I pray?
Yes, noble lord, this is the same,
Was left me with this very chain.
My daughter is a virgin bright,
And you shall have her this very night
Wherefore now take delight in her,
'Tis I who am your godfather.
Here's twenty thousand pounds in gold,
And when I'm dead it shall be told,
You shall enjoy my whole estate,
For to make you both rich and great.

FINIS.